

Hanford Needs a Contingency Plan



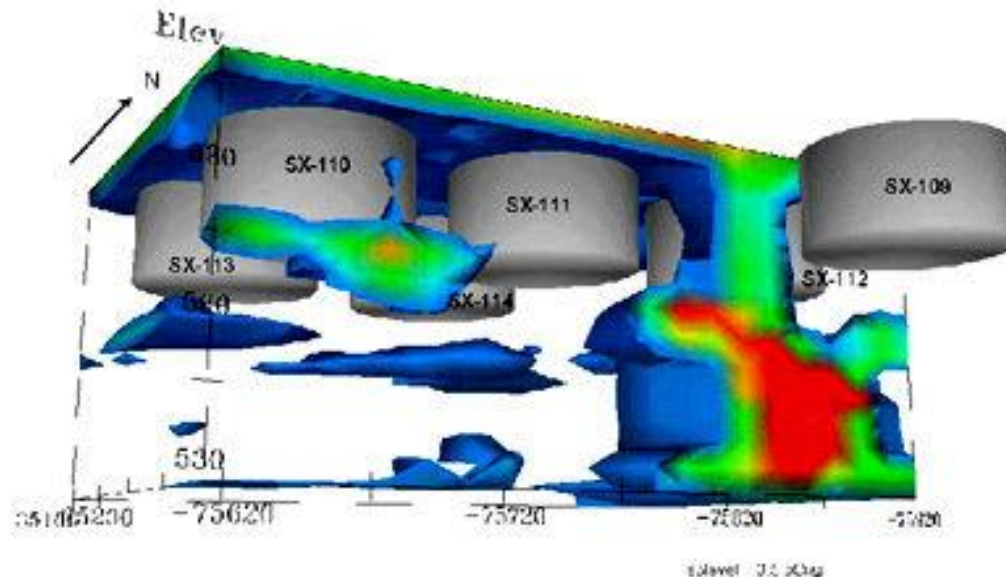
Your comments should ask Ecology and the US DOE to include a contingency plan in the permit, because



53 million gallons of high-level radioactive, chemical waste are stored in 177 tanks at Hanford. As these corrode and erode, they leak into the groundwater and the Columbia river.

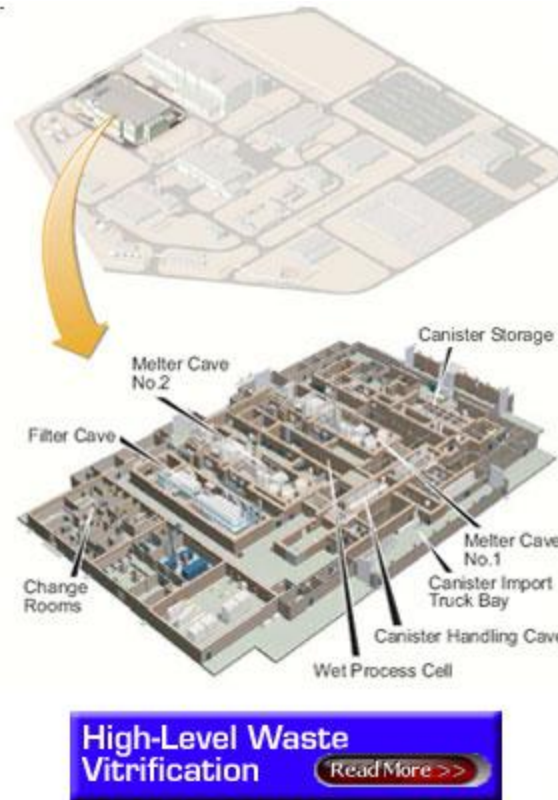


In 2000, it was reported that a million gallons of radioactive waste had leaked into the groundwater. The actual quantity was estimated to be 3 to 6 times greater.



Did US DOE respond by emptying the tanks, fixing them, or cleaning the spills?

No.



Because this liquid waste is prohibited from land-disposal, USDOE proposes to design and construct a **Waste Treatment Plant**. Waste will be pumped from the tanks and treated at this facility.

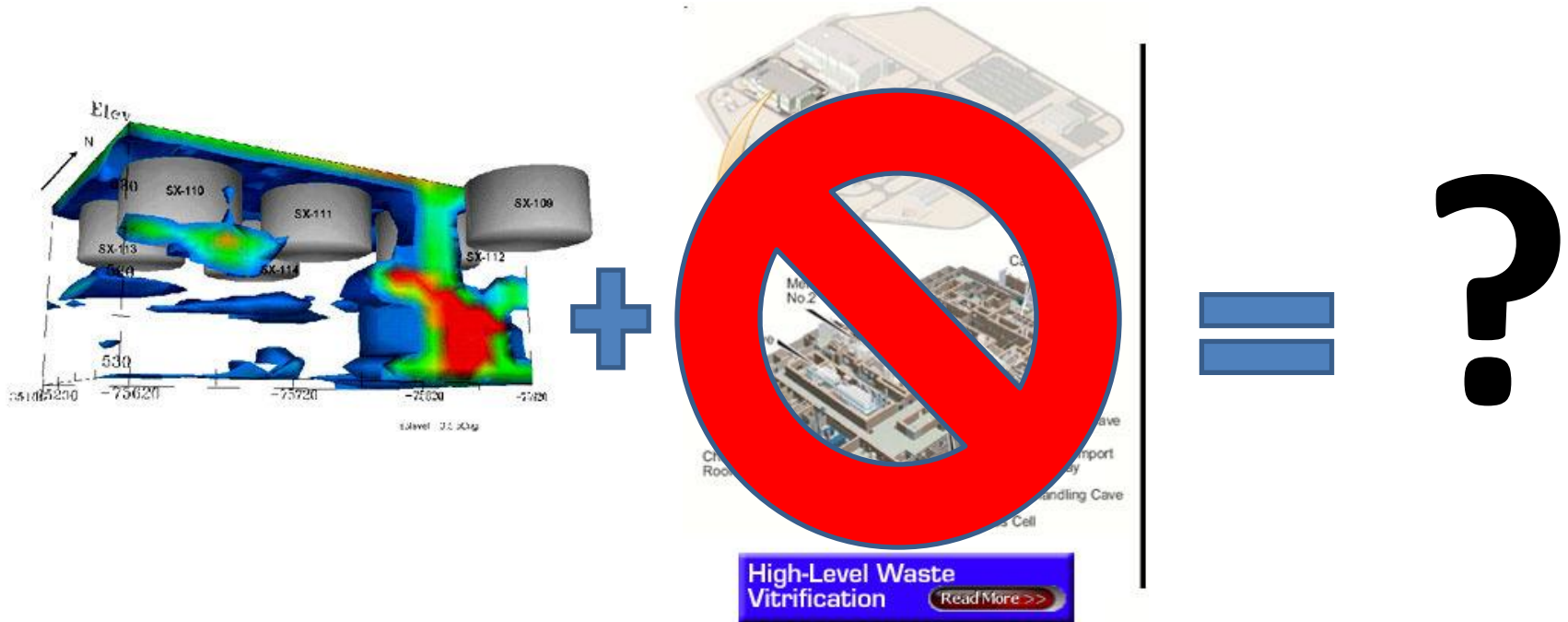
This is a highly complex facility, and challenges in its design and construction mean that **the facility will not be completed or operational for a long time.**

Meanwhile, **only 7 of the 149 single-shell tanks have been emptied**, and recent leaks have brought the safety of double-shell tanks into question....

US DOE inspectors found highly-radioactive chemical waste had leaked to the space between the walls of the double-shell tank in two locations, 08/2012.



What happens if.....



The Single and Double
Shell Tanks continue to
leak....

The Vitrification Plant
isn't built for years or
doesn't work....

Hanford needs a **contingency plan** that involves:

- Emptying Leaking Tanks
- Treating Waste At Off-site Facilities
- Corrective Action For Spills And Leaks
- Building New Double-Shell Tanks

Off-Site Waste Must Be Banned At Hanford



Your comments should ask Ecology to limit US DOE from using Hanford as a national radioactive-hazardous waste dump, because





Disposal of wastes at Hanford should be devoted to cleanup, because existing wastes will contaminate groundwater above standards for tens of thousands of years.

The permit must prohibit additional waste from being disposed until Hanford is cleaned.

Hanford Needs a New SEPA Determination



Lastly, your comments should ask for the current SEPA “Determination of Non-Significance” to be withdrawn, because



Our State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
requires an Environmental Impact Study (EIS)
whenever a government proposal may cause
**“significant, adverse environmental
impact.”**

**Issuing the Hanford permit will have
“significant, adverse environmental impacts,”
because:**

- This permit will authorize one of the largest, most complex environmental projects in the United States.
- Hanford lies along 50 miles of the Columbia river and is only six miles from a large population center.

- 40 miles of unlined burial grounds are releasing hazardous waste into the environment; 177 tanks have leaked or will leak highly radioactive chemical waste to the ground.
- US DOE has not removed waste from the burial grounds and tanks as necessary to prevent further release of hazardous waste to the environment.



Therefore, the current SEPA determination is inadequate and must be withdrawn and replaced with a *Determination of Significance*.

A detailed study must examine all individually (and cumulatively) significant environmental impacts.